

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION.

QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: DEMOCRACY PARTY AND VILLAGE ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: ACCORDING BA XUYEN DEMOCRACY PARTY OFFICIAL, HIS PARTY WILL CONTEST 1973 VILLAGE ELECTIONS. POSSIBILITY OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES COMPETING WITH DP CANNOT BE RULED. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MARCH 21 CONVERSATION WITH BA XUYEN POLITICAL OFFICER TOMSEN, ORGANIZATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF BA XUYEN'S DEMOCRACY PARTY (DP) DAN INFORMED HIM THAT THE DP WOULD CONTEST UPCOMING VILLAGE ELECTIONS THROUGHOUT VIETNAM.

2. IN BA SUYEN, ORGANIZATIONAL COMMISSIONER DANG OPINED THAT DP CANDIDATES WOULD NOT MONOPOLIZE ALL SEATS IN EACH OF THE TWENTY- EIGHT VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY, PARTICULARLY IN VERY PACIFIED AREAS WHERE NON- COMMUNIST

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NATIONALIST CANDIDATES WOULD BE COMPETING. DANG THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE DP WOULD PUT FORWARD CANDIDATES FOR 100 PCNT OF THE SEATS IN LESS PACIFIED VILLAGES AND WIN THEM ALL. LOCAL VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS IN LATTER ELECTIONS WOULD BE ABLE TO QUOTE ENSURE UNQUOTE A COMPLETE DP VICTORY.

3. BA XUYEN' S DP ORGANIZATIONAL COMMISSIONER EXPRESSED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT PARTICIPATION VILLAGE ELECTIONS OTHER PARTIES WHICH HAD NOT QUALIFIED UNDER 060. HE FIRMLY STATED CANDIDATES WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO RUN ON A PRG TICKET IN ANY ELECTION UNLESS THE PARIS NEGOTIATIONS DECIDED OTHERWISE. HE KNEW OF NO FORMAL DP DECISION ON NON- DEMOCRACY PARTY CANDIDATES RUNNING AS INDEPENDENTS. HE SAW THIS AS STRONG POSSIBILITY BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATON ON WHETHER KNOWN OR SUSPECTED COMMUNISTS WOULD BE ABLE TO COMPETE BUT THOUGHT NOT.

4. DANG AND BA XUYEN' S DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF, NGUYEN HUU KE, COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAS DESIGNATED FORMER BA XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. QUAH HUYAH HA, AS THE DEMOCRACY PARTY' S NATIONAL COORDINATOR. HA HAD INCLUDED KE IN DP DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEKEND IN SAIGON AND HAD INVITED THE CHAIRMAN OF BA XUYEN' S PROVINCE COUNCIL TO JOIN HIM IN SAIGON TO HELP WITH DP AFFAIRS.

5. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, THE PROVINCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TOLD TOMSEN THAT FROM HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH DP OFFICIALS IN SAIGON THAT DECREE LAW 060 WOULD NOT RULE OUT INDEPENDENTS RUNNING FOR VILLAGE SEATS.

6. COMMENT: IF DANG' S ASSESSMENT IS CORRECT, THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES CONTESTING LOCAL ELECTIONS IS APPARENTLY NOT YET FIRMLY DECIDED BUT THAT THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE.
WISNER UNQUOTE
BUNDER

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